

## **CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE Charter**

### **1. The Committee's Official Designation**

The official designation of this federal advisory committee is the "Consumer Advisory Committee" (CAC).

### **2. Authority**

the CAC is hereby renewed at the direction of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C., App.

### **3. The Committee's Objective and Scope of its Activities**

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to pave the way for a new era of greater competition and consumer choice in telecommunications for all Americans. In order to ensure that consumers (including those representing underserved populations ) have equal and affordable access to telecommunications products and communications services, and to facilitate consumer involvement and input into all activities of the Commission, the CAC is hereby re-chartered pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2).

The mission of the Consumer Advisory Committee (hereinafter the "Committee") is to represent consumers, including underserved populations such as Native Americans, persons living in rural areas, older persons, people with disabilities, and persons for whom English is not their primary language. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter the "Commission") regarding consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission and to facilitate the participation of consumers (including underserved populations, such as Native Americans, persons living in rural areas, older persons, people with disabilities, and persons for whom English is not their primary language) in proceedings before the Commission. Issues or questions to be considered by the CAC may include, but are not limited to the following topic areas:

- Consumer Protection and Education;
- Implementation of Commission rules and Consumer Participation in the FCC rulemaking process, and
- Impact of New and Emerging communication Technologies (including availability and affordability of broadband service and Universal Service programs).

#### **4. Description of Duties**

Initially, the CAC, formerly known as the Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee, was established for a period of two (2) years from the original charter date. This is the eighth renewal of the Charter. In keeping with its advisory role, the duties of the CAC will be to provide general guidance to the Commission, and to gather data and information and to perform those analyses that are necessary to respond to the questions or matters before it.

#### **5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports**

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

#### **6. Support**

The Federal Communications Commission will provide the facilities and support staff necessary to conduct meetings of the CAC. Committee members will not be compensated for their services. The Commission will, however, pay costs associated with the provision of reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities when such costs are directly associated with the conduct of the Committee's meetings, or are directly associated with the conduct of subcommittee meetings. Some examples of reasonable accommodations include sign language interpreters, meeting agendas produced in Braille, and communication access real-time translation services (CART) to ensure that meetings are accessible to members with disabilities, if any, and the public.

#### **7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years**

Annual operating costs associated with supporting the CAC's functions are estimated to be \$275,000, which includes Commission staff time equivalent to 2.25 FTE's.

#### **8. Designated Federal Officer**

A full-time or permanent part-time employee, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will approve or call all of the Committee's meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Chairman.

#### **9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings**

The Committee shall meet approximately three times per year. The Committee is authorized to facilitate its work through informal subcommittees, which shall report their activities and recommendations to the Committee as a whole. It is anticipated that the work of subcommittees will be conducted primarily through telephone calls, e-mail

correspondence, and e-mail discussion lists. Recommendations of subcommittees must be reported to the CAC as a whole, and only as modified or ratified by the committee as a whole, may such recommendations be included in the official record of the Committee's proceedings, and reported to the Chairman of the Commission.

## **10. Duration**

The Commission will review the accomplishments and activities of the CAC to determine whether, after two years, this charter should be renewed and the CAC should continue as a Federal Advisory Committee.

## **11. Termination**

The Committee shall terminate two (2) years from the renewal date of this charter, unless renewed prior to the termination date.

## **12. Membership**

Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission in consultation with the Chairperson of the CAC and appropriate Commission staff. Members will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as necessary. Members will represent a wide variety of interests, including consumer interests, disability interests, interests of state regulators, tribal interests, and industry interests or, if serving as special Government employees, will have significant expertise in the issues to be addressed by the Committee. Together, these members will be selected to represent a balance of viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues to be considered by the CAC. Members should be prepared to attend a minimum of two (2) meetings per year of the CAC, and are also expected to participate regularly in the deliberations of subcommittees.

## **13. Subcommittees**

The FCC may create subcommittees. Recommendations of any subcommittee must be reported to the Committee as a whole, and may not be treated as recommendations of the CAC unless and until ratified by the full Committee (either as proposed or with modifications). Subcommittee members will have an initial and continuing obligation to disclose any interests in, or connections to, persons or entities who are, or will be, regulated by, or who have interests before the Commission.

## **14. Recordkeeping**

Records of the proceedings will be kept, as required by applicable laws and regulations. All records of the Committee, its subcommittees, and any other subgroups of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

**15. Filing Date**

October 21, 2014